

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, February 23, 2021)
Generated by Julie Burch on Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
ALisa Casas, Communications Director, Public Information Office

1. WELCOME

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes of February 9, 2021, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - Public Hearing-Proposed Amendment to the Solar Task Force Temporary Moratorium on Utility-Scale Solar Projects

Commissioner President Guy opened the Public Hearing at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Present: Bill Hunt, Director

Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Southern Maryland News* on February 5 and February 12, 2021.

The public hearing was held to receive public comments on the proposed amendment to allow the Chesapeake Conservancy, currently under contract, to finish its report to the Solar Task Force and to allow the recommendations from that report to be incorporated into a solar siting ordinance for St. Mary's County.

Commissioner President Guy requested Dr. Bridgett provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

Public comments given by:

Benjamin Hance 45547 Stoney Run Drive, Great Mills, MD

Dr. Bridgett closed the public hearing for public comment noting that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. The public hearing closed approximately at 9:20 a.m.

B. DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - Public Hearing - Proposed Amendment to change the Critical Area Overlay from Resource Conservation Area (RCA) to Intensely Developed Area (IDA) for the Real Food Studio Project

Commissioner President Guy opened the Public Hearing at approximately 9:21 a.m.

Present: Bill Hunt, Director

Notice of Public Hearing was published in *The Southern Maryland News* on February 5 and February 12, 2021

The public hearing was held to receive public comments on the proposed amendment to change the Critical Area Overlay to allow the owners of Real Food Studio to establish Use# 78, Take-Out Food and Beverage Sales, on their property.

Commissioner President Guy requested Dr. Bridgett provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment. No public comment was given. Dr. Bridgett closed the public hearing for public comment noting that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. The public hearing closed approximately at 9:26 a.m.

3. PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation was presented for National Engineers Week.

4. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR MARCH 2 AND 9, 2021.

B. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Property Tax Incentive for PIER 450 for Expanding Employment

I move to approve the Property Tax Credit application for New and Expanding Businesses for Pier 450 and authorize the Department of Economic Development to draft an agreement formalizing the proposed property tax credit, approved for legal and fiscal sufficiency, and authorize the Commissioner President to sign all related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

C. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Board of Education Requests approval of an FY2021 categorical budget adjustment

I move to approve the Board of Education's request of an FY2021 categorical budget adjustment for the Blueprint Transitional Supplemental Instruction Grant and authorize the Commissioner President to sign the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

5. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

MOTION 1: I move to support HB 1097 - St. Mary's County - Local Officials - Salaries and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the House and Senate Committees for hearings on this bill.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 2: I move to draft a letter opposing HB 655 with amendments and would support an amendment that would make this a referendum in 2022 and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of opposition to the House and Senate Committees for hearings on this bill.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 3: I move we add a second referendum to eliminate election districts, so elections are held at large and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of opposition to the House and Senate Committees for hearings on this bill.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Morgan, O'Connor
Nay: Commissioner Hewitt

6. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events over the past week and provided general comments.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

I move to enter into Closed Session to discuss Personnel.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

7. CLOSED SESSION

A. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Arthur Shepherd, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the *Local Government* Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 10:42 a.m. - 10:51 a.m.

Location: CSMC Meeting Room

Purpose: To consider appointment of an employee

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:51 am.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on March 2, 2021.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

9. BUDGET WORK SESSION

MOTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

I move to authorize the Commissioner President to sign the employment contract for the Golf Course Manager with terms and conditions as indicated.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - FY2022 Budget Work Session CIP and Operating

Present: Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

Jody Quasney, Deputy Director of Finance

MOTION 1: I move to approve the five-year phase in plan for the County Impact Fee at the current rate which would be, according to our chart, for FY2022.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 2: I move to approve the current property tax rate of \$.8478 as presented and advertise.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Morgan, O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hewitt

MOTION 3: I move we approve the CIP Budget, with the exception, of page 11.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 4: I make a motion to change the health care benefit package for elected officials to 2 terms (75% County/25% Elected Official); and 3 terms (85% County/15% Elected Official), pending fiscal note, and the Resource Conservation District (RCD) director follows SMC employees and allow the Commissioner President to sign all the related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

MOTION WAS TABLED.

10. ADJOURN